

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a system and method for producing a crop with certified characteristics. In one preferred embodiment, the system includes negotiating a contract between a grower and a purchaser to provide a crop with specified characteristics. The contract information is then input into a secure database. The grower plants the crop using seeds which satisfy the specified characteristics and inputs crop statistic information into the database at various times during the crop's growing and harvesting cycle. At appropriate corresponding times during the planting, growing and harvesting process, an auditor inspects the grower's seed source, planting, cultivating, harvesting, machinery, transport and storage. The auditor creates an audit report by inputting certified audit results into the secure database. The audit report is then published to the buyer for comparison to the contract information. In alternate preferred embodiments, arranging the contract can take an auction format where a grower provides certified crop statistics, before or after the growing cycle, to a number of potential buyers who bid on the crop. Alternately, the contract can be in the form of a reverse auction where a potential buyer specifies desired characteristics and a number of growers have the chance to bid on providing a certified crop matching the requirements.